

The Parish of Horton in Ribblesdale
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20 May 2013

Those present:

Thirty parishioners were present as shown on the list appended to these minutes.

Clerk: Mr Ian Fleming

Chairman: Mrs Sheila Fleming

Item 1. Apologies for absence

Avril Palmer, Wilf Fenten, Hilary Fenten

Item 2. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 15 May 2012

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed David Gallivan; Seconded Sheila Millman.

Item 3. Matters arising from the minutes and not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

There were no matters arising.

Item 4. Introductions and Chairman's report – full report appended to these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them that this was not a meeting of the parish council, but a statutory meeting of the electors of the parish convened to enable parish affairs to be discussed.

Thanks were given to all those who had worked so hard on behalf of the community over the past year and a welcome given to Gary Middleton who was co-opted onto the Council to fill a vacancy

The successes and disappointments of the past year were reflected upon including the failure to secure Lottery grant for Beecroft Cottages and success in obtaining funding for a Visitor and traffic Management plan. The picnic site at Helwith Bridge was now in community ownership and funding was being sought to enhance and develop this site as an asset to local residents and to visitors.

She reminded those present that the parish council worked best when there was full involvement from electors and she encouraged everyone to attend meetings and to raise any matters of concern.

Item 5. Financial Statement

The Clerk presented the audited financial statement for the financial year 2012/2013 as appended to these minutes and asked that any questions arising from these be raised with him so that he could place them on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council on 11 June.

Item 6. Address by Mr Carl Lis, Chairman Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

The Chairman welcomed Mr Lis who explained that faced with significant funding cuts, he had asked members of the Authority to become more proactive in engaging with parishes and local communities. He had therefore come along to support Cllr Welch and to talk about the Authorities priorities.

There had been a 30% cut in funding in real terms and this had necessitated the adoption of a reduced set of priorities focussing on the provision of excellent service. The Authorities management plan had been completed which sets out an ambitious vision for the future of the park and regards residents as its lifeblood.

A review of NP boundaries had been completed with recommendations for extension into Cumbria. If implemented this would necessitate an increase in funding.

The planning process had received a bad press so officers were seeking ways to improve consultation and public participation in planning matters.

Grant funding schemes available to local communities were explained including SDF and conservation grants.

A planning application for the development of a rail head at Arcow quarry was anticipated from Lafarge Tarmac and this would of course be the subject of extensive public consultation.

Mr Lis outlined recent works completed by the Authority including the Whitber footpath diversion and moved on to express his opinion of the Maintenance Unit at Horton station which he regarded as an eyesore. He explained the approach that, under national planning policy, the Authority had been forced to adopt and asked that the parish council give its full support to seeking changes to the permitted development rights enjoyed by statutory authorities.

There then followed a lengthy discussion about the MDU concluding with a commitment to review the way in which existing planning rules could be used to force statutory authorities to conduct effective local consultation.

David Gallivan proposed a vote of thanks to Carl Lis for attending.

Item 7. Presentation by Mr Lenny Lennon, Youth Development Worker for Craven

The Chairman introduced Mr Lennon who explained that his job was to support young people and to encourage them to realise their full potential. His work involved:

- support for youth development projects
- encouraging local initiatives to support young people
- engaging with local communities and youth groups
- providing training for volunteers

He was always available to provide advice and support and encouraged those present to consider what was needed locally to support young people and to contact him for help in taking forward any actions.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lennon for his presentation.

Item 8. Presentation of a Visitor and Traffic Management Plan for Horton

The Chairman welcomed Mr Colin Speakman who had been engaged by the parish council to consult with residents and to prepare a report on what initiatives might be adopted to minimise the adverse impact of visitors on the village and local environment.

Mr Speakman presented his plan copies of which were distributed at the meeting. He had made a large number of practical recommendations and it was now for the community acting together to decide which of these if any they wished to take forward.

It was decided that a working group to be managed by the parish council should be set up. This group would prepare a set of proposals for further local consultation and report back to the parish council in due course.

Item 9. Reports from District and County Councillors and village organisations

District and County Councillors

Richard Welch as both District and County Councillor gave a detailed briefing on his work over the preceding year.

Playing Field Association

Carole Middleton spoke about the local provision of sport for youngsters and the playing field. A netball team had been started and the tennis courts repaired. A new mower had been bought and a working group in October had made a big difference to the condition of the playing field. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Penyghent Gun Club

Rusty Bold explained the history of the club which had been running since 1951 without shooting anyone. They shoot on most weekends of the year through the generosity of local landowners. Membership is cheap and new members, especially women, are very welcome.

Dole Charities and Sickness Fund

David Gallivan explained the work of the charities. They had given out four monetary grants and 19 Christmas parcels. The first grant made was in 1875. David wished it to be recorded how privileged he had been to work with Margaret Holmes who had recently passed away. A very special lady. A representative from the parish council was required (subsequently decided to hold this over until after the 2014 parish council elections).

Village Hall and Gala Committees

June Bloom summarised the work of both committees. The hall had received a new roof and windows. The committee were now very busy organising the gala and urgently needed help.

Friends of Horton School

The friends made a considerable contribution to the life and success of the school through their fund raising activities and practical support. A number of well attended events had been organised during the year and more were planned for the months ahead.

Womens' Institute

Bunty Smalley introduced the WI who met on the first Tuesday of every month. The group were desperate for new members who would enjoy the wide range of activities available and learn new crafts and skills.

Horton School

Gill Woods introduced herself as the new head teacher at the local schools consortium. The school

was highly successful having achieved an Outstanding assessment from OFSTED. The pupils enjoyed a range of extra curricular activities in partnership with Austwick and Clapham schools. More pupils were needed if the school was to continue to thrive and arrangements were being made to make the presence of the school more visible. Of particular note was a sponsored trek organised by the Friends which had raised over £3k.

St Oswald's Church

Richard Pattinson outlined the work of the church congregation. Farewell had been said to the outgoing vicar Richard Wood. A new incumbent would be appointed in due course.

Church funds were at rock bottom and there was an urgent need to raise money for repairs and the installation of two new bells to bring the ring up to six. A number of events were planned over the coming months and everyone was encouraged to give their support.

Show Committee

Gary Middleton introduced the work of the show committee which this year would be held on the first week end in September. The 2012 show despite the usual spiteful weather had been a great success.

Over 60's

Audrey Daley reported on the activities of the group who had enjoyed a very good meal every Thursday. at a cost of £3. On the third Thursday of each month there was a drive out for lunch and sometimes a visit to a place of interest or shopping venue. The meals were a good opportunity to meet and socialise with people. Activities are sponsored by Age UK and bowling is available after the meal on Thursdays.

Item 10. Matters of general interest

There being no matters raised the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 21.55pm

Signed.....

Date.....